

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the Technical Report for the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) project. This report provides detailed background material for the Report to Congress on the Benefits of Safety Belts and Motorcycle Helmets, based on data and analyses from the CODES project. The Report to Congress, which was mandated by Section 1031(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), was made available for a 90-day public comment period through a notice published in the **Federal Register** on May 3.

DATES: Comments on the draft Report to Congress are due no later than August 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons may obtain a copy of the draft report or the CODES Technical Report, free of charge, from NHTSA's Docket Section at the following address: Docket Section, Room 5109, NASSIF Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-4949. Docket hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dennis Utter, National Center for Statistics and Analysis NRD-31, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590; Telephone 202-366-5351.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Report to Congress on the Benefits of Safety Belts and Motorcycle Helmets was mandated by Section 1031(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Grants were awarded to entities in Hawaii, Maine, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, and Wisconsin to obtain the data and perform analyses upon which the report was based. NHTSA entitled the project the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) Project. These CODES grantee states linked statewide motor vehicle crash report data and computerized emergency medical service, emergency department, hospital discharge, and rehabilitative/long-term care data. The linked data were analyzed to determine the medical and financial outcome benefits of the protective devices in crashes. The grantees provided NHTSA with the results of these analyses. NHTSA summarized the results of the individual state studies to produce the draft Report to Congress.

Whereas the draft Report to Congress provides an overview of the study, the databases used, the methodology used to link and analyze the data, and composite results, the CODES Technical

Report provides results by state and details on the procedures used by the grantees to prepare the databases, the probabilistic methods used to link them, and the statistical analyses which were performed. Also provided is additional information about the CODES Advisory Committees and state-specific applications for the linked data

William A. Boehly,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Procedures if the Generalized System of Preferences Program Expires

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential trade program that allows the products of many developing countries to enter the United States duty free. The GSP is currently scheduled to expire at midnight on July 31, 1995, unless its provisions are extended by Congress. This document provides notice to importers that claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP may not be made for merchandise entered or withdrawn from a warehouse on or after August 1, 1995, if the program is not extended before that date. The document also sets forth mechanisms to facilitate refunds, if the GSP is renewed retroactively.

DATES: The plan set forth in this document will become effective as of August 1, 1995, if Congress does not extend the GSP program before that date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions relating to the Automated Commercial Systems: Irv Fisher, Office of Automated Commercial System, 202-927-1220. For general operations questions:

Formal entries.....Lisa Crosby, 202-927-0163
Informal entries.....Debi Rutter, 202-927-1847
Mail entries.....Dan Norman, 202-927-0542
Passenger claims.....Robert Jacksta,
202-927-1311

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 501 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the Act), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461) authorizes the President to establish a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to provide duty-free treatment for

eligible articles imported from designated beneficiary countries. Beneficiary developing countries and articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP are designated by the President by Presidential Proclamation in accordance with sections 502(a) and 503(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(a) and 2463(a)). Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2465(a), as amended by section 601 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, 19 U.S.C. 2465 note, Pub.L. 103-465, 108 Stat. 4990 (1994), duty-free treatment under the GSP is presently scheduled to expire on July 31, 1995.

Congress is currently considering whether to extend the GSP program. If legislation is enacted but does not become law before the GSP expires, language may be included that would renew the GSP retroactively to the date of its presently scheduled expiration and Customs will need to reliquidate numerous entries to make refunds of duties collected. However, if Congress does not pass legislation renewing the GSP before midnight, July 31, 1995, no claims for duty-free treatment under the program may be allowed on entries made after that time.

Recognizing the impact that retroactive renewal and consequent numerous reliquidations would have on both importers and Customs, Customs has developed a mechanism to facilitate refunds, should GSP be renewed retroactively. Set forth below is Customs plan that will be implemented on August 1, 1995, if the GSP has not been extended by that date.

Formal Entries

Claims—Duties Must be Deposited

No claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP may be made for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after August 1, 1995. Duties at the most-favored-nation rate must be deposited, or a claim may be made under another preferential program for which the merchandise qualifies (for example, the Andean Trade Preference Act, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, or the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement).

While estimated duties must be deposited, all filers who file entry summaries through the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) may continue to file using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for the GSP (the letter "A") as a prefix to the tariff number for all entries that would have qualified for the GSP if the GSP were still in effect. Customs Automated Commercial System (ACS) will be reprogrammed to accept the SPI "A" with the payment of duty.

Filers using the ABI may reprogram their software so that the SPI "A" can still be used as a prefix to the tariff number, but with the payment of duty. While reprogramming is strictly voluntary, continued use of the SPI "A" has some benefits. One benefit of continued use of the SPI "A" is that the filer will not have to write a letter to Customs requesting a refund if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect. Use of the SPI "A" will enable Customs to identify affected line items and refund duties without a written request from the importer. In other words, after July 31, 1995, the SPI "A" will constitute an importer's request for a refund of duties paid for GSP line items, should GSP renewal be retroactive. Other benefits are that ACS will perform its usual edits on the information transmitted by the filer, thereby ensuring that GSP claims are for acceptable country/tariff combinations and eliminating the need for numerous statistical corrections.

This plan was used when the GSP expired on September 30, 1994, and was later renewed with retroactive effect by section 601 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, Pub.L. 103-465, 108 Stat. 4990 (1994). Customs Headquarters developed a computer program that identified entries made using the SPI "A" while the program was lapsed and was able to process most refunds without requiring further action by the importer. Refunds were delayed somewhat while the program was being written and de-bugged. Customs intends to use the same program this year if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect and believes it is the most efficient way to process large numbers of refunds quickly.

Filers who do not wish to reprogram will be required to request refunds in writing if the GSP is renewed retroactively, identifying the affected entry numbers.

ABI filers continuing to use the SPI "A" may use it as they do now (for example, for warehouse entries and for formal consumption entries).

Importers may not use the SPI "A" if they intend to later claim drawback. Use of the SPI "A" is the importer's indication that he wishes to receive a refund if the GSP is renewed retroactively. To claim both this refund and drawback would be to request a refund in excess of duties actually deposited. Importers who are unsure as to whether they will claim drawback are advised not to use the SPI "A". If the GSP is renewed retroactively, and they have not yet claimed drawback, they may request a refund by writing to the district director at the port of entry. If the GSP is not renewed retroactively,

they will still have the option of filing a drawback entry.

Continued use of the SPI "A" is not available to non-ABI filers.

Statistics

For statistical purposes, ACS will internally convert any "A" transmitted via ABI after July 31, 1995 into a "Q". If the GSP is renewed retroactively to that date, Census will convert all "Q" statistics into "A" statistics, thereby ensuring that next year's competitive need limitations under the GSP are accurate. This will also vastly reduce the number of statistical corrections that must be done by import specialists.

Refunds

If the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect, Customs will reliquidate all affected ABI entry summaries with a refund for the GSP line items. Field locations shall not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by Customs Headquarters.

If a filer files an ABI entry summary with the SPI "A", no further action will need to be taken by the filer to request a refund; filing with the SPI "A" constitutes a valid claim for a refund. Refunds for summaries filed without the SPI "A" must be requested in writing. Instructions on how to request a refund in writing will be issued if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect.

Informal Entries

Refunds on informal entries filed via ABI on a Customs Form 7501 with the SPI "A" will be processed in accordance with the procedures outlined above.

Baggage Declarations and Non-ABI Informals

When merchandise is presented for clearance, travellers and importers will be advised verbally or with a written notice that they may be eligible for a refund of GSP duties.

Travellers/importers may write a statement directly on their Customs declarations (CF 6059B) or informal entries (CF 363 or CF 7501) indicating their desire for a refund. If GSP duty-free status is reenacted with a retroactive provision, no further action to obtain a refund will be required on the part of the importer who has written such a statement. Failure to request a refund in this manner does not preclude them from making a timely request in the future.

Mail Entries

A written notice will be sent to the addressees with the CF 3419A (Mail Entry) informing them that they may be eligible for a refund of GSP duties.

The addressees may submit a claim requesting a refund of GSP duties and return it, along with a copy of the CF 3419A to the appropriate International Mail Branch (address listed on bottom right hand corner of CF 3419A). It is essential that a copy of the CF 3419A be included as this will be the only method of identifying GSP products and ensuring that duties and fees have been paid.

Dated: June 28, 1995.

Philip Metzger,

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Performance Review Board— Appointment of Members

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Department of Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the appointment of the members of the United States Customs Service Performance Review Boards (PRB's) in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4313(c)(4). The purpose of the PRB's is to review senior executives' performance appraisals and make recommendations regarding performance appraisals and performance awards.

EFFECTIVE DATES: July 1, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Smith, Director, Office of Personnel, Office of Human Resources, United States Customs Service, Post Office Box 636, Washington, DC 20044; telephone (202) 634-5270.

Background

There are two (2) PRB's in the U.S. Customs Service. Performance Review Board 1.

The purpose of this Board is to review the performance appraisals of senior executives rated by the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Customs. The members are:

W. Ralph Basham, Assistant Director,
Office of Administration, U.S. Secret Service

Daniel R. Black, Associate Director,
Office of Compliance Operations,
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms

John C. Dooher, Director, Washington Center, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center General Office